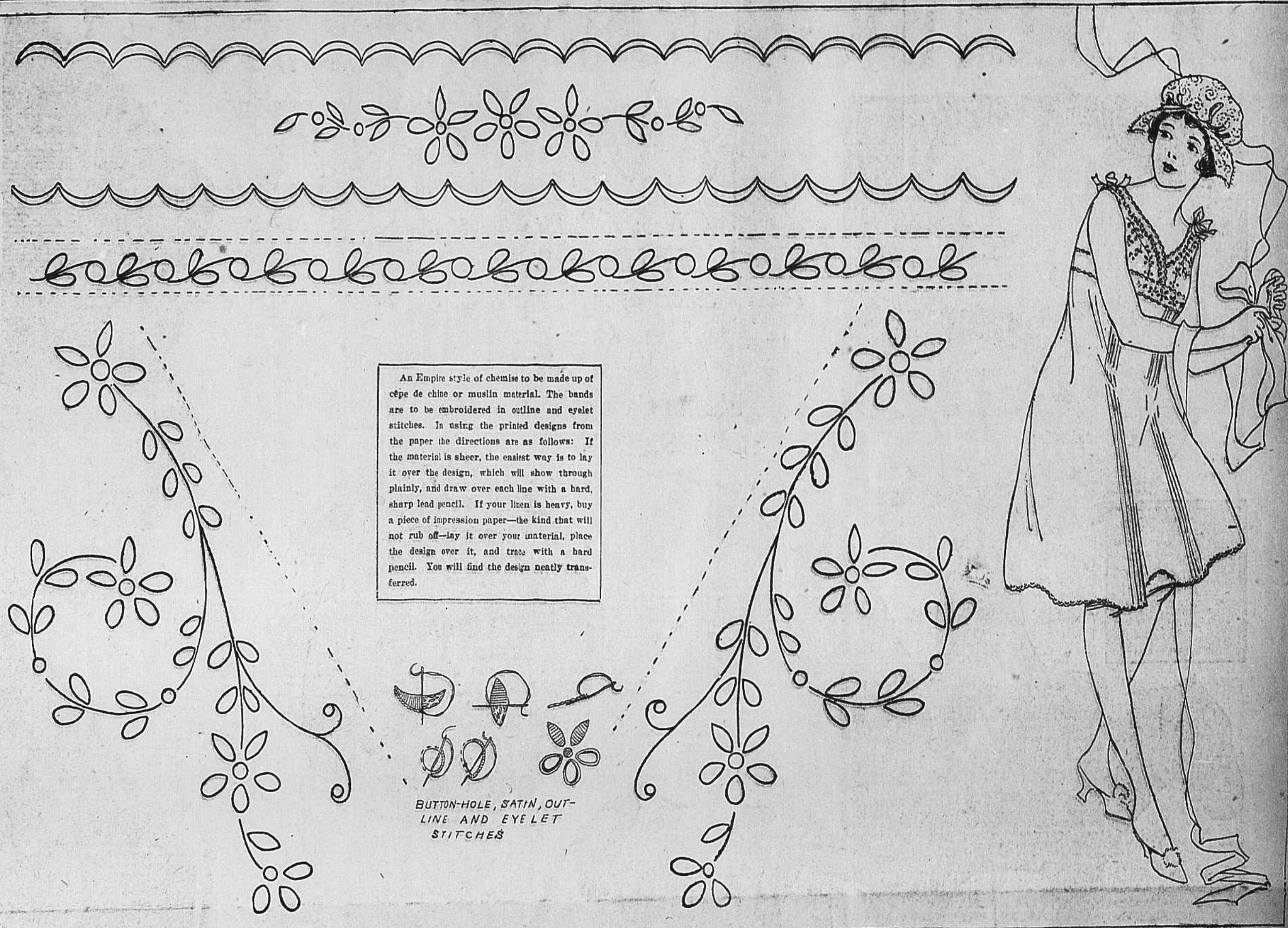


## Embroidered Envelope Chemise for Spring and Summer Wear.



## The Home Harmonious

## Chintz Wardrobe Novel and Useful

## By Anita de Campi

## Washable Toys Are the Safest.

AT this season of the year it is a great temptation to lay in a supply of pretty drapery fabrics and to begin to make them up and have them ready for the spring redecorating. Many lovely domestic cretonnes can be had for 25 cents a yard and even less.

The season offers a number of novel uses to which the new fabrics may be put, particularly in bedrooms. One of the nicest things I have seen is a chintz wardrobe. It is so simple that any one who has a knack can easily fashion a home-made copy of it.

Make two shallow wooden boxes, just a trifle larger than an ordinary millinery box cover. One with the open face turned down forms the top, and the other with the open face turned up forms the bottom of the wardrobe.

These are covered on the outside with chintz and are joined together by five foot lengths of chintz. That is, chintz is tacked on all the way around, hanging straight down. The bottom box is heavy enough to make it hang in a perfect square. At the front only the chintz overlaps. Here it is adjusted with snap clasps and is trimmed with a binding and two big tassels.

To the box on the inside of the top a small clothes pole (made of an ordinary curtain rod) is fastened, and the clothes are hung to this rod by means of shoulder hangers.

The chintz wardrobe may be left hanging out in the room on a bracket hook from the side wall, or a hook from the ceiling, or if there is a good sized closet in the room it may be hung on the closet rod in the closet. In any case it is an invaluable adjunct of the toilet, as it protects light dresses from dipping on the floor and covers them from the dust. Party slips to match the gowns may be kept in the bottom of the case.

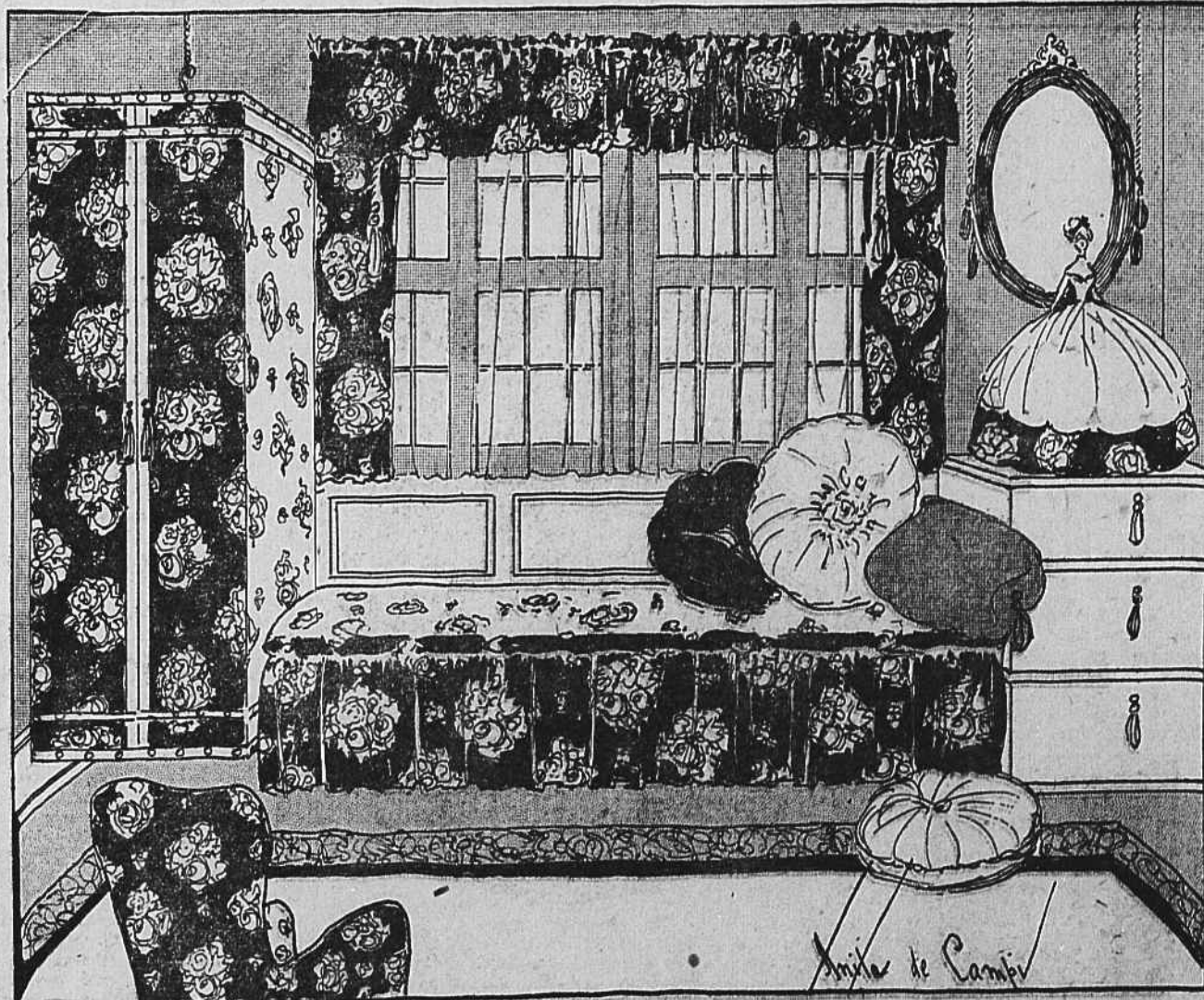
At the left of the illustration is a sketch of one of these useful articles. At the right is a set of chintz covered millinery boxes in a stand made to hold them.

On top of the stand is another novelty. It is a Dresden dollie all dressed up. The skirt of the doll is made over a wire lamp shade. The cunning Dresden body moulded only to the waist line comes in a variety of shapes and sizes this year, at prices ranging from 75 cents to \$5 or \$6. In the one pictured here a chintz band has been sewn around the base of the wire frame, and Tusser silk is used for the full upper part of the skirt.

What is it used for? Well, with an electric light under it it is used for a lamp shade, or it may be slipped over, as a cover for the telephone, or supplemented with a simple undercover made of asbestos cloth it may be pressed into service as a tea caddy.

It is a fad of the moment to have the dresser doll to dress and undress. Sometimes her costume is made of brocade, sometimes of silk trimmed with gold lace, and sometimes of chintz and taffeta, but she is never allowed to become passé, and the ingenuity that is exerted by nimble fingers to keep her freshly and fashionably clothed adds a touch of almost childish femininity to the room.

Casement curtains are a charming substitute for window shades. It is well to have them finished on both sides, so that they may be reversed on occasion, changing the whole appearance of the room.



ing the whole appearance of the room. Figured chintz can be used on one side, and dotted or striped cotton taffeta on the other.

Often a valance, like the one in the picture, is used across the top of several windows when treating the several windows as one. The valance should always be on a separate rod, not to interfere with the drawing back and forth of the case ment curtain.

If the addition of the valance gives an unpleasant impression of shortness to the windows, either do without the valance, or raise it well above the window frames, letting the lower edge just cover the case ment curtain rods.

When leaving off the valance a new note this season is to cover the curtain rod with the curtain material. This makes a connecting line of color between the curtains. This fad is notably popular in the hanging of portieres. Nearly all of the best decorators advocate covering the curtain poles with the fabric used for the hangings.

Curtain pulls are also counted among

best-selling perquisites of drapery departments. They are in pairs, made of heavy cords and tassels, or are straight strips of embroidery or brocade. They are attached securely to the curtain at the top and they hang loosely down to within easy reach of the hand. The curtains are jerked back and forth by these pulls. Three in the illustration are of cords and tassels, matching other trimmings in the room.

The idea is attractive of repeating the whole color scheme of whatever chintz is employed, in a number of small different colored cushions thrown on the window bench or settee. Usually the little gathered cushions are made of silk. One small black velvet one may be among the lot.

To much boldly figured cretonne is unpleasant unless it is backed by large spaces of neutral tone. In other words, an abundance of cretonne is best in a room with plain side walls and simple rugs.

There is a vast difference between domestic and imported prints. The former,

to begin with range from 10 cents to a dollar a yard in price, and the latter from \$1 to \$5 a yard. Without going too deeply into the matter, one distinguishing mark is easily recognized—that is the difference in the length of the repeated patterns. In the domestic stuffs the pattern must be repeated at least once in every eighteen inches, because they are all printed on eighteen inch rollers. It is this that makes them monotonous. The imported fabrics are done by means of block printing, and the repeats are limited only by the number of blocks used. The figuring is usually larger, and consequently more difficult to turn into successful decoration. Small conventional patterns are nearly always safe.

A simple decorator's rule should be kept in mind in making a selection of chintz, and that is that three elements of the room must be considered—the wall-paper, the upholstery and the drapery. One of these three must be kept free of decorative design. Conservative taste asks that two of the three be free of embellishment. If all three are covered with

figured stuff the effect is bound to be nothing short of atrocious.

## Answers to Inquiries.

L. P.: I should suggest you use cream enamel woodwork in your bedroom. Use chintz for hangings and cover on dress box. A dahlia design in the neutral shades ranging from a faint pinkish-lavender to the deep purple shades would look well with the oak furniture. Have a deep purple pottery bowl in the room to bring out the color scheme.

MRS. T. R.: Since you have decided on cretonne curtains for your bedroom, let the sunfast inside curtains in your parlor and dining room and your portieres, if you will use them, be of whatever shade predominates in the chintz you choose. Have an hour glass chair in your living room, one or two Windsor chairs, and one comfortable dreside chair upholstered. I think Spanish

leather and fumed oak rather severe. Wicker is a good material for inexpensive furniture, and is light, pliable, and attractive. It is charming when properly fitted with pretty chintz cushions, which you can doubtless make yourself.

MRS. A. J. K.: As your woodwork and furniture will be oak, I would suggest that you have your walls stained a lavender gray tint, using the same throughout the hall, living room, and dining room. Have your draperies a deeper shade of heliotrope, a sunfast material in the living room, with velvet portieres, unless you wish to use chintz throughout, in which case be sure that the heliotrope shades predominate in the flowers or figures. Or you might use the chintz in the dining room only, as you prefer. Have rugs of deep plum color. For the bedrooms I would prefer the white or cream enamel, and you can use fine net curtains throughout, having your draperies of different colored chintz, to suit your taste, in the different bedrooms.

J. E. B.: I quite approve of your idea of doing over the old pine woodwork on the second floor and having it done in white enamel. Instead of graining the woodwork on the first floor in imitation mahogany, I should advise you to paint it alike throughout. If you do not care to have it white, make it some light neutral shade.

M. L.: In what finish is the wainscoting of the dining room now? If it is good, perhaps the best thing would be to leave it alone. As to the bedrooms, finish in white enamel on the second floor, and it would be well to do the doors in mahogany if you like, but leave the windows and window sills in white enamel like the rest of the room. Figured papers in the fabric papers, not too pronounced, are good, and stripes are also good. Chintz in good designs is good for draperies, and I should advise this voile window curtains.

M. G. T.: No, I do not think the green tapestry would clash with the surroundings you describe. Let the papering on your walls correspond with the coloring predominating in your colored rug. I suggest you do away with the glass shades on the lamps and use silk shades instead. Let the draperies on the door between library and living room be of simple velvet or a shade deeper than the side walls. Small window boxes set up on legs are now being used; they are called window ferneries. Thanks for your many compliments.

D. H.: Wilton velvet seamless in warm tones would be the best covering for your floor. This velvet comes 8, 9, and 12 feet wide in any desired shade and cut to any length. This makes an excellent seamless covering. Much Japanese lacquered furniture is now on the market.

What is your room to be—bedroom or living room? The secking in yellowish or grayish green would not be bad for your side walls, but I think that you would prefer genuine Japanese grass cloth (I don't mean the wall paper imitation).

CHILDISH ailments are often difficult to account for, and even doctors are puzzled at times. But in cases like this one medical man, with children of his own, always asks: "Where are the children's toys?" Then often the problem is solved, and the case can easily be diagnosed as one of mild poisoning.

Most toys find their way into the children's mouths, the gaudy paint is sucked off, and trouble naturally follows. Some toys, wooden or tin trumpets, for example, have the paint actually on the mouthpiece or within an inch of it. India rubber toys are favorites, but they should be uncolored, as the paint becomes brittle, breaks off, and a piece may be swallowed and cause severe stomach trouble.

Washable toys are always the best. The favorite rag doll may hold danger if the stuffing has not been sterilized, and it should be baked in a hot oven. It won't hurt the doll, but it will put any germs out of action. This is not mere faddiness—it's mother being careful.

Those attractive little tea sets one often sees are touched up with paint. Scrape it off or wash with strong soda and water before you give it to the children. It is best to be on the safe side.

## Pointers for the Housewife.

Currants have to be washed carefully, both to get rid of the insects and to make sure that poison used to kill currant worms is not on the fruit. The quickest way to do this is to buy a 10-cent corn popper and keep it for just this purpose. Put your currants in the popper and close the lid. First pour a dipper of salt water over the currants. Ordinary water will not make the insects let go their hold on the berries, but when the salt water strikes them they curl up and drop off. Then hold the popper under the cold water faucet and shake it gently. The currants will be washed clean within two minutes.

When cooking meat that is inclined to be tough, add at least a teaspoonful of vinegar to the water. This will make it tender and will not impair the flavor in the least.

One of the most methodical of housewives tells how to fold tablecloths in a way which lengthens the life and insures the linen being absolutely flat upon the table. The idea is to fold in three lengthwise, and so avoid the many squares made by folding across in the usual way. The parts that wear first are always where creases are. The strongest threads in damask run horizontally, and are therefore the ones that should stand the strain. The three folds are arranged as a screen, and to put away the cloths are rolled up lightly and tied with fine ribbon or soft twine.

It may be useful to know that when you have oversteamed a thick can be counteracted by dropping an uncooked potato into it. Allow the soup to continue boiling until the potato is cooked.